A3350-1

Home Appliance *NewsLine*

An AHAM Bulletin to Editors

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 21, 1990

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MAY IS MIXED MONTH FOR MAJOR APPLIANCE FACTORY SHIPMENTS, SOME RECORDS SET

CHICAGO -- Total major appliance shipments for May (4,147,100) were down 6.1 percent compared to May 1989, and the first five-month total trailed 1989 performance by 4.5 percent. However, excluding microwave ovens, industry totals for the month were one percent ahead of last year.

Combined, May shipments of electric and gas ranges, home laundry products, dishwashers and refrigerators -- all "core" products for full-line manufacturers -- were down only 1.9 percent for the month and up 0.8 percent year-to-date.

Dehumidifiers, due to an excessively moist spring in most parts of the U.S., registered the largest increase (81.3 percent) followed by dishwashers (5.9 percent), disposers (3.3 percent), room air conditioners (2.3 percent) and washers (1.3 percent).

Dehumidifiers and room air conditioners enjoyed the second highest May ever, with disposer shipments tying for second highest May (with May 1987).

Year-to-date performance (first five months) registered highest-ever records for refrigerators and home laundry equipment. Excluding

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microwave ovens, the cooking products total shows a 1.9 percent increase for the same period, the result of a strong gas range category.

On the other hand, microwave ovens saw their lowest month since July 1983 with a 37.1 percent decrease in shipments, due in part to high market penetration. AHAM estimates that 75 to 80 percent of U.S. homes now have this appliance. National consumer magazine surveys of subscribers record ownership levels over 90 percent.

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MAJOR HOME APPLIANCE INDUSTRY SHIPMENTS*, THOUSANDS OF UNITS

May, 1990

	MAY			CALENDAR YEAR TO DATE		
	1990	1989	% Change	1990	1989	% Change
ALL MAJOR APPLIANCES**	4,147.1	4,416.3	-6.1%	20,030.3	20,979.5	-4.5%
COOKING - TOTAL	942.8	1,258.9	-25.1%	5,486.9	6,348.5	-13.6%
ELECTRIC RANGES - TOTAL	257.3	262.6	-2.0%	1,225.0	1,230.8	-0.5%
Free Standing	202.4	209.6	-3.4%	954.0	970.7	-1.7%
Built-in	54.9	52.9	3.8%	271.0	260.0	4.2%
GAS RANGES - TOTAL	177.0	181.2	-2.3%	895.9	850.1	5.4%
Free Standing	168.7	172.0	-1.9%	848.9	804.7	5.5%
Built-in	8.3	9.2	-9.8%	47.0	45.4	3.5%
MICROWAVE OVENS/RANGES***	521.1	829.0	-37.1%	3,426.7	4,336.8	-21.0%
HOME LAUNDRY - TOTAL	891.2	903.6	-1.4%	4,528.3	4,490.1	0.9%
AUTOMATIC WASHERS	538.4	531.3	1.3%	2,678.4	2,586.1	3.6%
DRYERS - TOTAL	352.8	372.3	-5.2%	1,849.9	1,904.1	-2.8%
Electric	274.7	283.1	-3.0%	1,429.2	1,470.4	-2.8%
Gas	78.1	89.2	-12.4%	420.7	433.7	-3.0%
KITCHEN CLEAN UP - TOTAL	671.0	645.2	4.0%	3,324.8	3,448.7	-3.6%
DISPOSERS	346.9	335.8	3.3%	1,758.8	1,855.6	-5.2%
DISHWASHERS - TOTAL	307.5	290.5	5.9%	1,480.0	1,502.7	-1.5%
Built-in	290.1	275.5	5.3%	1,393.4	1,414.5	-1.5%
Portable	17.4	15.0	16.0%	86.5	88.1	-1.9%
COMPACTORS	16.6	19.0	-12.6%	86.1	90.4	-4.8%
FOOD PRESERVATION - TOTAL	746.8	789.0	-5.3%	3,187.0	3,154.7	1.0%
REFRIGERATORS	643.4	682.5	-5.7%	2,729.1	2,698.2	1.1%
FREEZERS - TOTAL	103.4	106.5	-2.9%	457.9	456.5	0.3%
Chest	60.5	59.4	1.9%	252.0	254.4	-0.9%
Upright	42.9	47.0	-8.7%	206.0	202.1	1.9%
HOME COMFORT - TOTAL	895.3	819.5	9.2%	3,503.3	3,537.6	-1.0%
ROOM AIR CONDITIONERS	764.3	747.2	2.3%	3,055.7	3,218.2	-5.0%
DEHUMIDIFIERS	131.1	72.3	81.3%	447.6	319.4	40.1%

* Domestic plus export shipments; includes both U.S. produced and imported products.
** Numbers do not add because of overlapping product categories.
*** Includes microwave ovens and combination microwave ovens/ranges.